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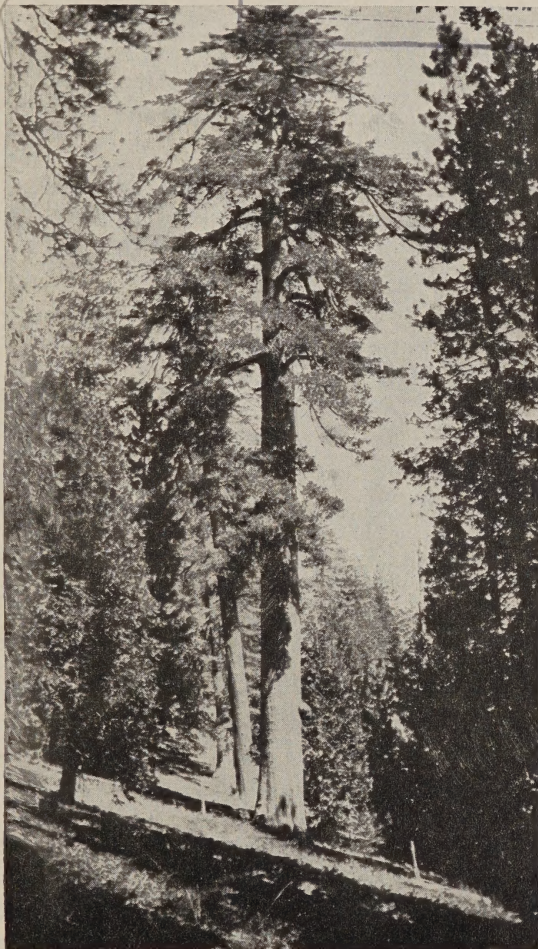
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STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST

Department of Agriculture
CALIFORNIA



F-244276

Monarch of the forest—a mammoth sugar pine on the Stanislaus National Forest.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
CALIFORNIA REGION

M. F.—18 R. 5

Issued 1935

NATIONAL FOREST VISITORS

Free Public Use of National Forests Is Invited

Visitors to the Stanislaus National Forest are required to observe the following rules:

1. A camp fire permit must be secured before building any fire, including fire in stoves burning wood, kerosene, or gasoline, on national forest land. The nearest forest officer will issue a permit to you without charge.

2. Every camping party in the national forests must be equipped with a shovel and an ax per vehicle or pack train. Shovel, with blade at least 8 inches wide, and an overall length of 36 inches; ax, not less than 26 inches long overall, with head weighing 2 pounds or more. Both of these tools to be in serviceable condition. All camping parties will be expected to obtain these tools before entering the national forests.

3. During the fire season smoking is prohibited in the national forests, except in camps, at places of habitation, in special posted areas, and above 7,000 feet elevation, where smoking is allowed. Smokers must be careful to extinguish their lighted matches, cigars and cigarettes, and pipe heels. Watch for "No Smoking" and "Smoke Here" signs.

4. In periods of high fire hazard, camping and camp or picnic fires may be restricted to posted camp grounds, and part or all of the national forests may be closed to public use and travel. Watch for "Closed Area" signs.

5. Build small fires. Clear an area down to mineral soil not less than 10 feet in diameter before starting a fire.

6. Never leave a fire without totally extinguishing it with a plentiful supply of water.

7. Keep your camp clean. Where garbage pits and incinerators are not provided, burn or bury all garbage and refuse.

8. Do not pollute the springs, streams, or lakes by insanitary acts.

9. Observe the State fish and game laws.

***Your cooperation in the enforcement
of these regulations is requested***

STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST

CALIFORNIA

The Stanislaus National Forest, covering 820,000 acres of Government land, is located on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada and extends from the Merced River on the south to the Mokelumne River on the north, and from the summit of the Sierra Nevada on the east to the foothills of the San Joaquin Valley on the west. It includes parts of Calaveras, Tuolumne, Alpine, and Mariposa Counties. On the east is the Yosemite National Park and the Mono National Forest, on the south the Sierra National Forest, and on the north the Eldorado National Forest.

The forest takes its name from the Stanislaus River, which has its source among the rocky peaks of the Sierra summit. The name itself is undoubtedly of Spanish



F-210846

North Fork of Stanislaus River, at Boards Crossing.

origin, but whether it refers to Saint Stanislaus or to an early-day Indian is not certain.

The first known crossing of the Sierra Nevada by a white man was over a route leading through the present Stanislaus National Forest. In May 1827, Jedediah Strong Smith, intrepid and courageous explorer, buffeted his way through blinding storms and snow and crossed the Sierra south of Sonora Peak at Emigrant Pass. Smith had previously led a party from Utah into southern California by way of the Mojave Desert, and from there had traveled northward through the San Joaquin Valley to the Stanislaus River. As he was anxious to return to Salt Lake City, he essayed to cross the Sierra with his entire party but encountered such heavy snow that he abandoned the trip. Smith then left the party and with only two companions made a second and successful attempt.

This region was the Mecca for adventurers of every character. Here the miners, gamblers, dancing girls, and "bad men" gravitated because of the richness of the placers. But with this unreliable population came also one of the hardest, most conscientious, law-abiding, and resolute groups of men ever gathered together. So the Mother Lode prospered and produced millions in gold for

the upbuilding of industries and agriculture. In addition, it helped to carry the United States Government itself, with a steady and sound financial standard, through the great financial crisis of the Civil War.



Kennedy Canyon in the Sonora Pass region. The crest of the Sierra Nevada in the background.

The foothill region of the Stanislaus Forest, known as the "Bret Harte Country", is rich in the history of the forty-niners and the placer mining days of the 50's. The quiet little village of Columbia was formerly one of the largest towns in California, where thronged the red-shirted miners and where many a fortune won from nature in a day was carelessly lost over the faro tables in a night. Near by are the old placer grounds, washed bare of their covering of soil and gravel—bleak uprearing monuments of limestone which bear witness to the tireless work of man in his search for gold. This region is the scene of many of the stories of Mark Twain and Bret Harte. A cabin on Jackass Hill near Tuttletown is preserved as the place where Mark Twain lived with the Gillis brothers in the 60's. Such local names as Calaveras, Slumgullion, Poker Flat, Whiskey Hill, Roaring Camp, Table Mountain, Red Dog, and Angels Camp are found in the stories by Twain and Harte of the early days in this region.

One of the belts of the famous Mother Lode—a gold-bearing quartz vein on which many well-known mines are located—runs outside the forest boundary in a straight southeasterly direction from Angels in Calaveras County to Jacksonville in Tuolumne County.

ACCESSIBILITY

Three State highways pass through the Stanislaus Forest from the western boundary over the summit of the Sierra Nevada to the east side of the mountains, where they connect with highways going into Nevada and the Lake Tahoe region and with other roads extending north and south the entire length of California.

The Ebbetts Pass Highway goes through the northern portion of the forest, and may be reached by good roads from the San Joaquin or Sacramento Valleys. It crosses the Sierra summit at an elevation of 8,800 feet, and is one of the least difficult of the trans-Sierra roads. From San Andreas, Angels, or Murphys in Calaveras County

it is an easy day's drive by way of the Calaveras Bigtree State Park over Ebbetts Pass to Markleeville, the first town on the east side of the mountains. Hotel accommodations, gas, oil, and supplies are available at several points between Murphys and Markleeville.

The Sonora-Mono Highway, the oldest road over the Sierra Nevada in the Stanislaus Forest, crosses the western boundary of the forest near Confidence and passes through the central part, leaving the forest at Sonora Pass (elevation 9,624 feet) on the summit of the Sierra. This highway, built in the 60's during the silver mining boom in Nevada, is a former route of the Pony Express, and connects with El Camino Sierra running north and south from a point a few miles north of Bridgeport in Mono County. Hotel accommodations, supplies, gas, and oil are available at several places along this route.

The Big Oak Flat Road, an old stage route and toll road, is one of the main highways leading into Yosemite National Park from the San Joaquin Valley. It begins at Chinese Camp, enters the Stanislaus Forest about 6 miles



F-268364

The Dardanelles as viewed from a point near Patterson Grade on the Sonora-Mono Highway.

east of Groveland, passes through the southern portion of the forest, and enters the Yosemite National Park near the Tuolumne Grove of giant sequoias.

The Tioga Road is a much-traveled highway across the Sierra summit and a popular route between Yosemite Park, Mono Lake, and Lake Tahoe. It branches from the Big Oak Flat Road at Carl Inn, 24 miles from Groveland. This road enters the Yosemite National Park at Aspen Valley Checking Station, and going by way of Lake Tanaya and Tuolumne Meadows crosses Tioga Pass at an elevation of 9,941 feet, where it enters the Mono National Forest and terminates at Mono Lake.

In addition to the main highways, over 700 miles of roads and truck trails and 900 miles of horse and foot trails traverse the Stanislaus Forest, making it one of the most accessible national forests in California. Many miles of such roads and trails have been constructed during the past few years by the Forest Service, primarily for administration and fire protection. All of these roads are open to the public so long as Forest Service regulations are observed and proper precautions are taken to prevent fires.

The western portion of the Stanislaus Forest may be reached by the Sierra Railway, which runs from Oakdale to Sonora and Tuolumne. Connections with the Southern Pacific for Stockton and San Joaquin Valley points may



F-211800

The Stanislaus is one of the most important timber forests in California, with an estimated stand on Government land of $9\frac{1}{2}$ billion board feet.

be made at Oakdale. The Pacific Greyhound Lines maintain daily stage service from San Francisco, Stockton, and various San Joaquin Valley towns to numerous points on or in the vicinity of the forest.

FOREST RESOURCES

Timber

As a timber producer the Stanislaus is one of the most important national forests of California. The estimated stand on Government land is $9\frac{1}{2}$ billion board feet. During 1930 more than 54 million feet was cut, which brought in a revenue to the United States Treasury of over \$209,000. During the recent lumber depression the cut from the forest has been materially decreased, but with the revival of the industry the Stanislaus Forest will again become a large producer.

Government timber is appraised and sold to operators by competitive bid. All logging is done under the supervision of qualified forest officers, who mark the trees to be cut so that the overmature timber is removed and sufficient young trees are left to reseed the ground and form the basis for the next cut. The least possible damage is done to the trees and young growth left on the logging area.

One of the largest lumber companies in the Sierra Nevada has two sawmills and box-factory plants at Standard and Tuolumne, with a broad-gage and a narrow-gage railroad over which logs are hauled 30 to 60 miles from the logging camps in the Stanislaus Forest to the mills. Several small mills are also located in this region.

Water

The Stanislaus Forest contains the entire headwater drainage of the Stanislaus River, half of that of the Mokelumne and Tuolumne Rivers, and a small part of that of the Merced River.

Water from these drainage areas is used for hydroelectric power, irrigation, and domestic supplies. Power

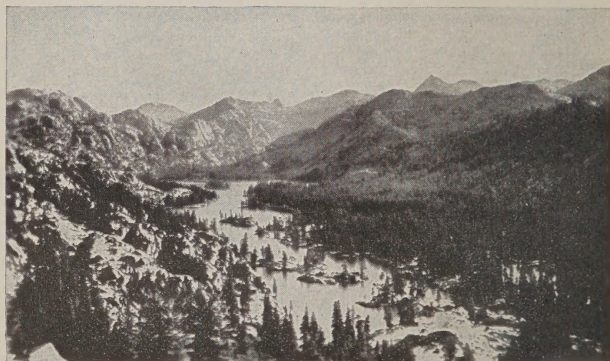


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A timber-sale area logged under Forest Service supervision. Note brush and slash piled for burning after the fall rains, and trees left on the area to form a future crop.

plants inside the forest and those dependent on water from the forest develop a total of 240,600 horsepower.

The Oakdale and Modesto Irrigation Districts are sup-



F-275454

Huckleberry Lake in the Stanislaus Forest, one of the many sources of water supply for the San Joaquin Valley.

plied with water from these forest watersheds, and a large part of the drainage area of the great Hetch Hetchy project, which supplies water and power to San Francisco, lies in the Stanislaus Forest.

All these important uses of water are vitally dependent upon the preservation of the forest cover which regulates the run-off from the drainage basins of these streams.

Forage

The Stanislaus Forest provides grazing each year for 12,350 cattle and horses and 14,000 sheep. Regulated grazing on Government lands insures protection of the

ranges through the assignment of the proper class of stock to each type of grazing land and through limitation of the length of the grazing season and the number of animals on each range. The improvement and perpetua-



F-19819A

The forage resources of the Stanislaus Forest furnish feed each year for 12,350 head of cattle and 14,000 sheep.

tion of the range for the good of the livestock industry is the object of Forest Service regulation.

RECREATION

Located in the central Sierra region and adjacent to many cities and towns in the San Joaquin Valley, the Stanislaus National Forest yearly attracts a large number of campers and tourists. Many of these visitors are on trans-Sierra tours. Others occupy summer home sites rented from the Forest Service at an annual cost of from \$15 to \$25. Thirty-nine tracts along automobile roads have been surveyed and subdivided into lots by the Forest Service as sites for summer homes. The largest development of this kind is at Pine Crest, on the shores of Strawberry Lake.

Commercial permits are also issued for resorts, stores, and other business necessary for the accommodation of the public. Information concerning available summer-home and commercial sites may be obtained from the forest supervisor at Sonora or from the local forest ranger.

The cities of Oakland, Berkeley, and San Francisco maintain municipal recreation camps within the forest, open to their citizens at nominal rates. The counties of Tuolumne and Stanislaus have free public camp grounds, and the Y. M. C. A., Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, and fraternal organizations have their own camps within the forest.

Free camping grounds, reserved by the Forest Service for the use of travelers, are located at Pine Crest, Cow Creek, Lily Creek, Cascade Creek, Mill Creek, Niagara Creek, Clarks Fork, Brightmans Flat, Pigeon Flat, and Deadmans Creek on the Sonora-Mono Road. On the Eb-betts Pass Road there are public camps at Big Meadows.

Lake Alpine, Pacific Valley, and Hermit Valley. On the Big Oak Flat Road camps will be found at The Pines, South Fork, Sunset Creek, Carl Inn, and North Crane



F-220868

Camp Fire Girls on a summer outing in the Stanislaus National Forest.

Creek. Hotels and resorts that cater to the comfort of travelers are located along the main highways and at points of scenic and recreational interest.

FISH AND GAME

Deer are plentiful and hunting is good on the northern portion of the Stanislaus Forest. A foot-and-mouth epizootic broke out among the deer in the central and



F-236935

San Francisco Municipal Recreation Camp at Mather, in the Stanislaus National Forest.

southern portions of the Stanislaus during the summer of 1924, and it was necessary to kill many deer in these localities in order to control the disease. Since that time

there has been a gradual increase in the number of deer, but hunting is not yet considered good in those portions of the forest where the disease was prevalent.

Trout fishing is good in all streams and lakes in the forest. The Division of Fish and Game, State Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with the Forest Service and other organizations, plants approximately 1,500,000 small trout annually in the streams and lakes within and adjacent to the Stanislaus. The increasing number of fishermen that visit the forest makes it necessary that a large number of trout be planted, and this will be done as rapidly as additional facilities for handling the fry are developed.

EMIGRANT BASIN PRIMITIVE AREA

To preserve in their primitive state typical mountain and forest areas in California noted for their scenic and recreational values, the Forest Service has set apart tracts of national forest land as primitive areas for the use and enjoyment of all the people. Such areas will be preserved in a "wild" state in the sense that they will not be developed by road building or other forms of permanent recreational occupancy. The grazing of livestock will be permitted, and when economic conditions warrant, the orderly utilization of timber, water power, and other resources may be allowed.



F-252203

"Off the beaten path" in the high Sierra country of the Emigrant Primitive Area.

The Emigrant Basin Primitive Area includes 97,000 acres of mountainous country lying north of the Yosemite National Park on the headwaters of the Cherry and Stanislaus Rivers. This is a picturesque area of rugged granite domes and deep granite-walled canyons, in which are found sparkling lakes and turbulent streams. This is a true wilderness, accessible only by Government trails, and offers many opportunities to the fisherman and naturalist. The elevation varies from 6,000 feet to 11,575 feet at Leavitt Peak.

THE CALAVERAS BIGTREES

Two groves of bigtrees (*Sequoia washingtoniana*) are located within the Stanislaus National Forest on or near the Ebbetts Pass Highway, about 8 miles above the Calaveras Ranger Station. The North Grove, purchased in 1932 by popular subscription and State funds and now called the Calaveras Bigtree State Park, is said to have been found by J. M. Wooster in June 1850. The original



F-230482

Calaveras Bigtree State Park on the Ebbetts Pass Highway.

grove was reported by the Whitney survey party in 1861-68 to have contained between 90 and 100 trees of large size and at least four over 300 feet in height. The present grove covers an area of 50 acres and contains 158 trees over 12 feet in diameter. The finest trees of the grove are Keystone State, Three Graces, Trinity, the Sentinels, and Old Dowd.

The South Grove is less than 3 miles in an air line from the North Grove, but, because of the 1,000-foot canyon of the North Fork of the Stanislaus River, can best be reached from the highway by an 8-mile trail. The grove itself is an irregular tract of 415 acres extending along the narrow valley of Big Tree Creek, and contains 947 trees over 12 feet in diameter. This grove is still in private ownership, but it has been proposed that it be purchased and added to the State park system.

Burned forests build no homes—pay no wages



F-176982

Tuolumne Oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*). Circumference, 31½ feet; spread of branches, 131 feet.

TUOLUMNE OAK

One of the largest oak trees in California is located on the Buchanan road, about 8 miles from Tuolumne and 3 miles beyond the Riverside Ranger Station. This is a canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) 31½ feet around the base, with a spread of branches 131 feet in diameter.

WINTER SPORTS

During the past few winters snow sports have become an increasingly popular form of amusement. At holiday time and over week-ends, hundreds of motorists from the San Francisco Bay region and San Joaquin Valley towns, as well as from the local communities, journey to the resorts at Long Barn, Twain Harte, and Big Trees for a day in the snow. Skis, toboggans, and skates may be rented at the resorts, or the motorist may choose to bring his own equipment.

When the new section of State Highway from Stoddard Springs to Strawberry and the spur road to Pine Crest are completed, it is expected that these roads will be kept open during the winter months, thus affording home owners and visitors at both of these resorts new opportunities for the enjoyment of winter sports.

FIRE PREVENTION

The preservation and wise use of all resources in the Stanislaus National Forest are absolutely dependent on adequate fire prevention. Without fire prevention much timber would be destroyed; stream flow would be diminished by the destruction of the timber and ground cover which protects valuable watersheds; grazing values would be lessened by the damage to forage and the de-



F-239009

Fire—The destroyer of timber, water supply, wild life, and recreational resources.

terioration and erosion of soil; fish would be destroyed by lack of water; and game animals would be injured or killed by fire.

Fire prevention and suppression, therefore, take priority over all other Forest Service activities, and should have first place in the thoughts and actions of all those who use the forest, whether commercially or for recreation.

ADMINISTRATION

The Stanislaus Forest is administered by a forest supervisor who has his headquarters in Sonora. The forest is divided into four districts, each in charge of a district ranger, with headquarters as follows:

Calaveras Ranger Station, post office, Murphys.

Sonora Ranger Station, post office, Sonora.

Tuolumne Ranger Station, post office, Groveland.

Brightman Flat Ranger Station, post office, Dardanelle.

Forest officers will gladly give information, issue camp-fire permits, and be of such assistance to travelers as their regular duties will permit.

WHAT TO DO WHEN LOST

A clear head will find itself. If every one remembered this there would be fewer reports of persons lost in the mountains and forests. Loss of mental control is more serious than lack of food, water, or clothing. The man who keeps his head has the best chance to come through in safety.

The following helpful rules are worth remembering:

1. Stop, sit down, and try to figure out where you are. Use your head, not your legs.

2. If caught by night, fog, or storm, stop at once and make camp in a sheltered spot. Build a fire in a safe place. Gather plenty of dry fuel.

3. Don't wander about. Travel only downhill. Follow water courses or ridges.

4. If injured, choose a cleared spot on a promontory and make a signal smoke. The Forest Service fire look-outs or the observers in airplanes may see your smoke.

5. Don't yell, don't run, don't worry, and **DON'T QUIT.**

A word from the forest rangers to the new camper, hiker, or vacationist:

It is better to carry a clear head on your shoulders than a big pack on your back. Yet in going alone into the mountains it is well to go prepared for any emergency. A fish line and a few hooks, matches in a waterproof box, a compass, a little concentrated food, and a strong knife should always be carried. A gun may help as a signal, seldom for obtaining food. Above all, keep cool, and the chances are you will come out of the woods on your own feet.

GOOD MANNERS IN THE FOREST

A good sportsman, camper, or tourist, when he goes into the national forests—

First obtains a camp-fire permit.

Carries a shovel and ax.

Smokes only in camp.

Puts his fire dead out with water.

Leaves a clean and sanitary camp.

Observes the State fish and game laws.

Cooperates with the forest rangers in reporting and suppressing fires.

Preaches what he practices.

DO YOU?



If you don't know—ask the U. S. Forest Ranger



STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST
CALIFORNIA
MT. DIABLO MERIDIAN

1934

Scale 0 1 2 Miles



LEGEND

- National Forest Boundary
- Adjacent National Forest Boundary
- Main motor highway
- Good motor road
- Poor motor road
- Trail
- Railroad
- Supervisor's Headquarters
- District ranger station
- Ranger or Guard station
- Lookout station
- Trangulation station
- House, cabin, or other building
- Improved public camp

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Winter sports on the Stanislaus National Forest. The toboggan slide at Long Barn.

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